

Notes from meeting of CREZ Refinement Group on Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Participants: Carl Zichella, Sierra Club, Johanna Wald, NRDC, Faramarz Nabavi, CalWEA (by phone), John McCaull, GEA, Billie Blanchard, CPUC, Roger Johnson, CEC, Arthur Haubenstock, BrightSource, Ashley Conrad-Saydah, BLM, and John Moore.

Discussed two new CREZ refinement issues – wilderness lands and lands acquired by The Wildlands Conservancy and donated to BLM. The former refers to lands designated as wilderness areas in legislation that has passed the Senate and is expected to shortly pass the House and be signed by President. Johanna, Ashley and John will confirm which lands are covered by this legislation and that there are no projects on them. Once the legislation is signed, the lands – which should now be mapped as yellow – will have to be converted to black. There should be no impact on CREZ ratings. Although RETI agreed to map the lands donated by The Wildlands Conservancy in yellow, it appears that all of them were not included in our data base. We need to map these lands, determine how much acreage is involved, and then ask the EWG to help us develop an approach to dealing with them. Independently of what RETI does, BLM must resolve issues with Wildlands re management of these lands. Agreed that a field trip/meeting with BLM and Dave Myers would be a good thing.

We also discussed refinement issues previously identified: ownership patterns, ACECs/DWMAs, and northern CA CREZ. With respect to 1% development cap, discussed BLM policies re calculating disturbance areas. Ashley will check in with BLM DC office as well as CA state office for any guidance regarding how much of 1% will be allotted to transmission and what percent disturbance should be used for wind and solar applications and associated transmission lines. With respect to ownership, learned of new problems with effort to determine how serious problems are. Analysis is complete for Kern county, but much work still remains for the other three counties – San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial.

We discussed the fact that BLM applications are “a moving target.” I.e., how to handle new applications that are filed and withdrawal of applications. Agreed to use January 20, 2009 as our cut off date going forward.

Before adjourning, we discussed two more issues. First, how to use and portray the information that we have developed for both the conceptual transmission planners and RETI generally. And, second, refining CREZs outside of southern CA. We will begin with Round Mountain.

Thanks to Ashley Conrad-Saydeh for note-taking at this meeting.